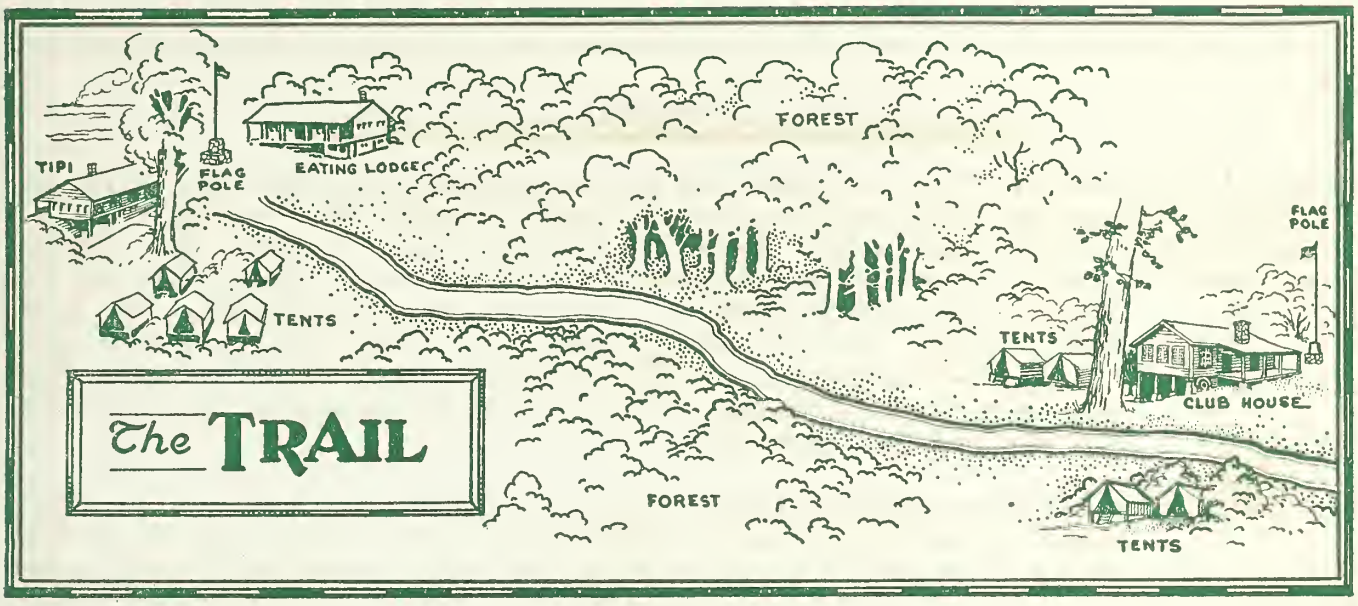


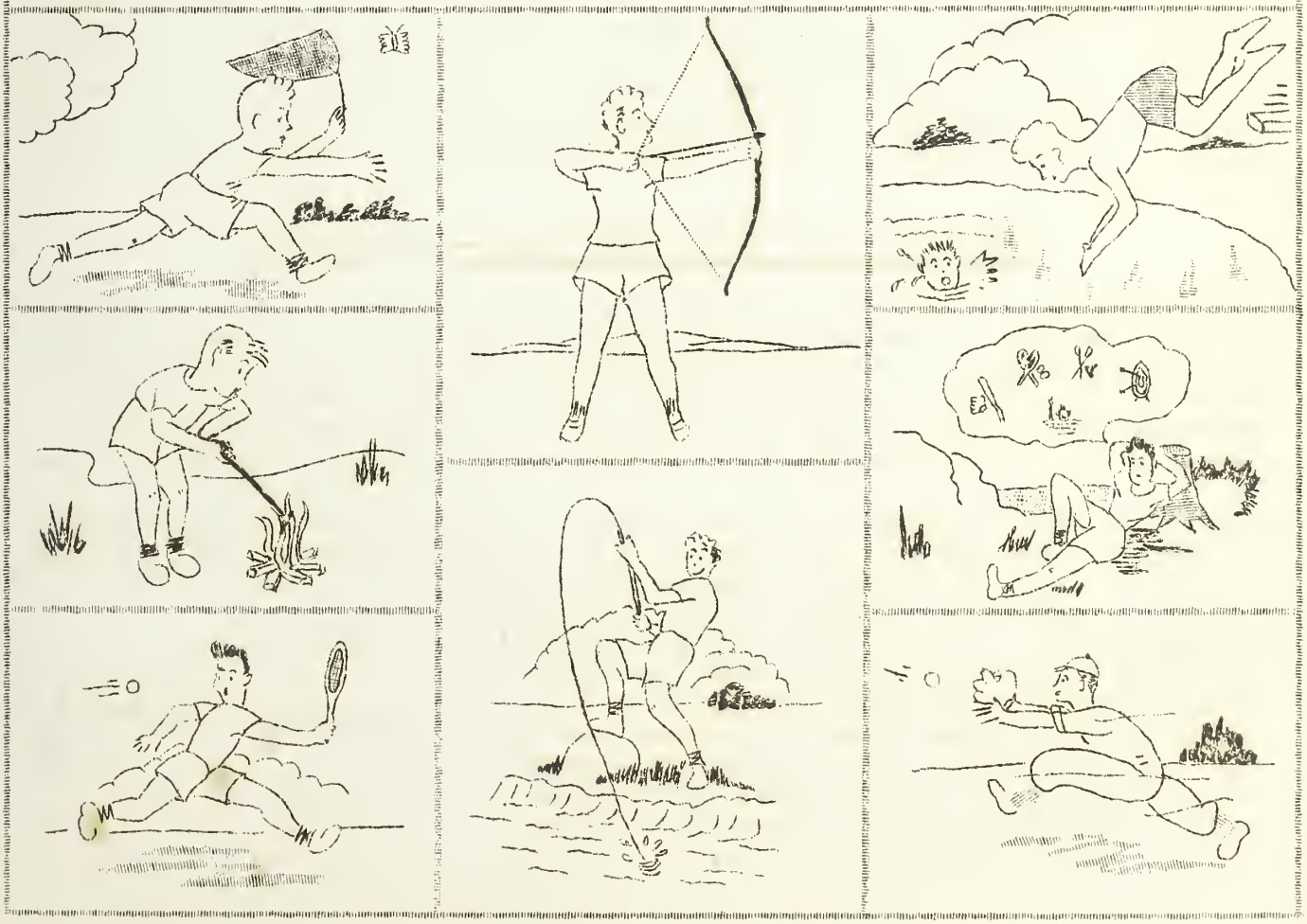
The TRAIL

Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

THE AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo.

APRIL 1942

ALL IN A DAY AT MINIWANCA



DO WE HAVE FUN AT MINIWANCA? -- Eston Mathews

Boy, I'll say we do! I've been there for six consecutive years and have thoroughly enjoyed every one of them. All of you old-timers will agree with me that there never seems to be any dull moments -- everything always seems to be in full swing and everybody always happy. While day-dreaming over some of the fun of the past few years, I well remember the low councils, Grand Councils, and the Leaders' Frolics. How well we all remember the boxing matches, overnight hikes, all-time famous corn band, beach suppers, and the final banquet held each year. Swimming, sailing, canoeing, diving, and kayaking have all been enjoyed there too.

All of this dreaming seems useless to me right now while I am in the midst of quarterly exams at Hargrave Military Academy down in old Virginia. I've been kept rather busy this session with many extra-curricular activities such as Glee Club, Literary Club, assistant editor of school paper, and as a member of the Sabre Club and Student Senate, but have made the honor roll so far each month. I now hold the office of 1st Lieutenant, Executive Officer, Company C. My room-mate, a Captain, and I have charge of 50 boys between 8 and 14 years old.

AMATEUR ACTORS AND DRAMATICS -- Hugh Kerwin

As the last two weeks of camp roll around at Miniwanca the amateur actors get a chance to show their hand. Last year under the guidance of Bob Kerwin, a very fine mystery play was presented. Another play was scheduled, but due to lack of time to prepare, it could not be given. Next summer we will get started earlier and we'll have time enough to do several plays. The plays are given in Cedarsands, a beautiful outdoor theatre situated among many pine trees. The campers make their own scenery, and the plays are given on a cooperative basis with everyone who is taking dramatics participating in some way. With everyone working together the giving of plays is great fun.

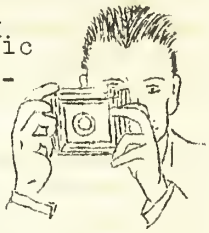
OVERNIGHT HIKE TO LITTLE POINT SABLE -- Sandy Dewar

The hike began at the end of the rest period. We all were advised what to wear and what not to wear by the gallant trail-blazer, Squid Orwig. The weather was perfect -- a cloudless sky, shining sun, and a cool breeze. We started out with Squid taking the lead and Johnny Lobingier following up in the rear. The whole camp went through YG Camp and on to the Michigan Beach. The lighthouse was $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles away -- $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of beach to be walked! We all started out with smiles and a joyful step.

Seven miles later, we dragged our feet along the hot sand and looked longingly at the lighthouse a half-mile away. Finally we reached our destination and waited for the truck to bring our blankets. When we thought about eating -- that delicious food Jack always makes just melted in our imagination. After we ate, we prepared blankets for a good night's rest. Then came the whistle for Vespers and there one of the leaders gave a talk on the fourfold way of living. At last we went to bed and to sleep -- one by one the fires faded out as we slept out under the stars, the moon, and the lighthouse. Around nine o'clock the next morning we ate breakfast and then started on the long trek back to camp.

CAMP PHOTOGRAPHY -- Dave Moore

I don't want to sound as if I was just tooting a horn for Miniwanca, but this is really a fact. The place is chock full of possibilities for any fellow that has a camera. The dunes, woods, lakes, and beach provide any background you could desire, and with some of those Tarzan-type leaders (Attention: Vic Graper) and the other campers, you could use enough film to clean Eastman out of stock. To all these things I added cloud shots and pictures of the boats and docks.



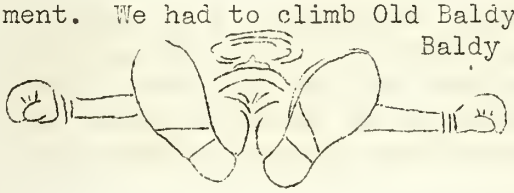
The darkroom is a dandy too, and if you like to process your own films, it's there. The only word of warning I have is that there is an awfully lot of sand at camp, so be sure to bring a case if you have one. And don't forget your camera -- you'll never regret packing it along!

VESPERS AND IDEALS -- Allan Millikan

The Vesper services and Christian Ideals classes are two things that make Miniwanca stand out from all other camps. It gives you something that lasts through all the years. I still remember Fred Nolting's talk on "Mental Pictures". All in all, the Vesper services and Ideals classes stand for the ideals of Miniwanca.

THE BOXING TOURNAMENT -- Jim Van Eenenaam

Last summer we were in training for a week before our boxing tournament. We had to climb Old Baldy two times every day and climb Little Baldy as many times as Johnny wanted us to. Then we took exercises on Little Baldy every day and on the day of the fight we were put on a diet and had to eat soup and eggs. I lost my fight!

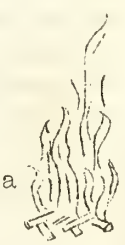


BACKWARDS DAY -- Johnny Rothgeb

The day I like best at camp is Backwards Day. First we get up and have nights doings and then Vespers. We go through the whole day that way. Of course all of the old campers like it, and if they have Backwards Day again this summer all of the new campers will like it too. Every day at Miniwanca there is something new and different to do. I know all the new campers will think camp is swell just as I do.

GOOD TIMES AT MINIWANCA -- Dick Raymond

You know, it's strange to realize just how much you find yourself thinking of Miniwanca and the good times you shared with all the others while there. In conversations, in discussions, on dates, and at dinner I find myself speaking -- with just a bit of a sigh -- about those quiet, dark evenings around a crackling campfire when we'd all lie half hidden in a warm wool blanket, singing songs together and listening to the spine-tingling tales and legends of days gone by.



Those are experiences you can never forget it seems; and as far as I'm concerned I hope I never will be able to, for they bring back memories of the finest times I've ever spent -- and I can bet that the "double-darers" in Tent T all feel the same way. I hope we can all make the dunes of Miniwanca really ring this summer -- for six big weeks!

CHRISTIAN IDEALS -- Hartwell Davis

Ideals classes are going to take on a new significance this year. They may seem to be far removed from Pearl Harbor and all that has and will follow, but actually the two are closely related. After this war has been fought and won, the real job will just begin -- the job of rebuilding and bringing order out of confusion. And that is where we come in!

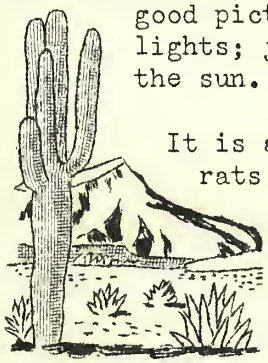
Our generation is going to have to provide the workers for that job and it takes good workers to do it right. By good workers is meant those fellows who have purpose and ambition, who know where they're going and how they're going to get there. The Ideals classes at camp are aimed at the training of such workers. You're lucky to have the training opportunity that Ideals classes offer. Make the most of it!

AND HERE'S A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE KURZ

While home during the Easter week-end I went with my folks to our farm. The out-of-doors made me think of Miniwanca. The hills were covered with wild flowers and fruit trees were budding out. It was great to be outdoors again. And speaking of Miniwanca, any boy who can possibly get to camp should do so because it will be an experience of real value now when leadership and clean living are paying the greatest dividends.

BILL OLIVER WRITES FROM THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT IN CALIFORNIA

My regiment is on maneuvers in the desert under wartime conditions. I am mighty glad of my Miniwanca experience, but that sure seems luxurious to what we have now. Put together about a month of those overnight Sable hikes and you will have a pretty good picture of us. We all sleep on the ground in pup tents; no water or lights; just hard hours. We are up 'way before dawn and go to sleep with the sun.



It is a constant struggle against the denizens of the desert too. Pack rats have ruined one of my blankets; lizards are our constant companions. We always put a flashlight in our blankets to run out any scorpions that may be present. Black widow spiders and rattlers make up the rest of the opposing team. It is a good rough life that keeps you on your toes. I really am liking these maneuvers just an awful lot. In some ways I'll be sorry to return to civilization. My duties in M Battery, 4th Battalion, 10th Marines are as Reconnaissance and Survey Officer. I also have charge of the battery telephone and radio communications, and I figure the firing data to send down to the battery.

* * * * * * HERE'S HOW ONE BOY IS MAKING SURE OF GETTING BACK TO CAMP * * * * * *
*
* His mother writes: "He has trapped all season, also saved his caddy money. He *
* went out on the course the other day and hopes to have quite a few Saturdays *
* there. It looks as if he will earn half of his camp expenses and you can be *
* sure he will appreciate camp." Now perhaps YOU could help to earn part of *
* your own camp fee too so that you could be absolutely sure of getting back to *
* Miniwanca this summer. *
* *

NATURE STUDY BUILDING

A new building has been erected for nature study only, located back of the craft shop on the dune where the old barbecue oven was. After camp closed last summer, the leaders who were staying over for Older Boys Camp, moved nearly 200 concrete blocks all the way from near the ball diamond behind the eating lodge to the spot in back of the craft house.

This summer the boys interested in outdoor life and nature study will have a building where materials, collections, and specimens can be framed, mounted, and exhibited. Let's begin collecting for a nature study exhibition.

NEW FEATURES

Indian Lore . . . One of our new leaders who has had a lot of study about Indian dances, costumes, tom-toms, etc., is going to have an interest group for all of you boys who would like to know more about Indian life.

Magic . . . If you are interested in sleight of hand, magic, and tricks of all kinds you will have a chance to see and learn all about a magician and his tricks.

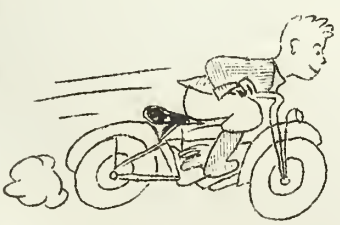
Signaling and First Aid . . . In these war days we are trying to do our bit by having several classes which might be useful to campers when they get back home. Some of you may be called on to do your part and if you know First Aid and signaling you can render very helpful service in times of need. Let's all be prepared to do our bit -- if and when our country needs us.

CEDARSANDS THEATRE

We are really planning to use our outdoor theatre this summer. Last year the types of plays given called for indoor presentation and therefore we weren't able to use Cedarsands.

We'll get an early start on dramatics this summer and make our outdoor theatre one of the spots of special interest. Villains, dashing heroes, heroines of dazzling beauty, footlights, scenery, etc., all will make dramatics one of the most popular groups. Backstage workers, scenery builders, property men are all important in dramatics too. You can all have a big time helping with this project.

SPEED-UP . . . SPEED-UP!

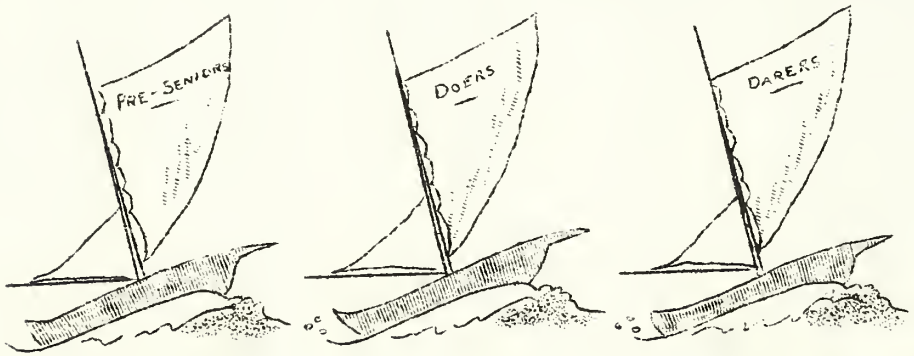


Every phase of life today is accelerated. Registrations are coming in every day. Has yours? We are absolutely limiting our enrolment to 135 this summer . . . so you'd better hurry and get your place reserved if you have not already done so. The early registration gets the place.

Many of last summer's campers are coming back -- be there to join in the fun, the friendships, and the big times with the rest of the gang.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

The American Youth Foundation
3930 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri



AHOY! SET YOUR SAILS FOR MINIWANCA!